

e-newsletter

MAY - JUNE 2012

Using scaled model pieces, community members discuss and create their "dream house", designed according to their needs, preferences and available housing loan amount.



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YP interns propose designs for SAMASAISIP community

NEW INTERNS immediately buckled down to work as they commenced their summer internship at TAO-Pilipinas. Four architecture students from PUP-CAFA (Glenn Marte, Cristina Belen, Cris Mabato, and Jessa Saria) and two civil engineering students from UE Manila/Caloocan (Russell Amada and Paolo Alarcon) formed the YP team that was tasked to come up with design proposals for a multi-purpose center, communal toilets, and livelihood center in Tanza, Navotas. The design and construction of small community infrastructures are part of TAO's ADB-

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TAO facilitate workshops for resettling Sendong-affected families in CDO

TAO-PILIPINAS WORKED WITH SOCIAL HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION (SHFC) to carry out participatory design workshops with Cagayan De Oro City communities affected by Typhoon Sendong. Typhoon Sendong (international codename: Washi) which hit Northern Mindanao on December 16, 2011 caused massive flooding that destroyed thousands of homes and displaced communities in Cagayan

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TAO Project Updates:

Drafting and Design for SAPSPA Pabahay Program * CA Post-Ketsana Rehab Program

Network Activities:

Forum on Pasig River * HAP Consultation Workshop

YP Reading List:

ACHR's *Community Site Planning*; Zumthor's *Thinking Architecture*; Yarrow's *How to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint*; Armstrong's *Living Architecture*

Plus: New publication from TAO

“
You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete.
”

- Richard Buckminster Fuller (1895-1983), American architect, engineer, inventor, author and systems theorist

YP interns...

(From page 1)

funded Pilot Demonstration project to benefit SAMASAISIP community in Isla Pulo, Tanza.

The interns went on a field visit to Pulo on April 12, 2012 to conduct a site investigation and focus group discussion with community leaders. They also mapped out the location and measured the dimensions of the existing community center, communal toilets and livelihood center. Following the fieldwork, they proceeded to the drawing boards to draft schematic designs for the small community infrastructures. They presented these schemes to the project's architect-in-charge and engineering consultant on April 13 for initial review and comments. The schemes were then revised based on the review and innovations such as modular technologies and use of alternative building material were integrated in the designs.



Top photos: Interns measure existing community facilities and take GPS points of their location; schematic designs of the community facilities are presented to the community. Photo at left: Interns consult with Arch. Lusterio and Engr. Aquino on the design proposals.

PHILSSA holds Housing Conference

TO PROMOTE ITS MEMBER-ORGANIZATIONS' ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH EFFORTS funded under the Governance and Transparency Fund of the UK Department for International Development (DFID-GTF) project on Institutionalizing Local and National Partnerships to Address Urban Poverty and Homelessness in the Philippines, the Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies, Inc. (PHILSSA) held a housing conference with the theme *Strengthening Engagement and Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships for Housing Urban Informal Settlers* on April 17, 2012 at the Social Development Complex AVR of Ateneo de Manila University in Katipunan, Quezon City. The activity aimed to provide a venue for PHILSSA member-networks to discuss experiences and explore opportunities for collaboration through innovative advocacy strategies and research with various housing stakeholders.



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TAO facilitate workshop...

(From page 1)

De Oro City and nearby provinces. Affected urban poor communities are to be permanently resettled in various sites through the Community Mortgage Program (CMP) of SHFC and in partnership with non-government organizations.

On April 19-20, 2012 SHFC conducted a two-day CMP Workshop for about 60 community leaders at the Fr. Cronin Hall of St.



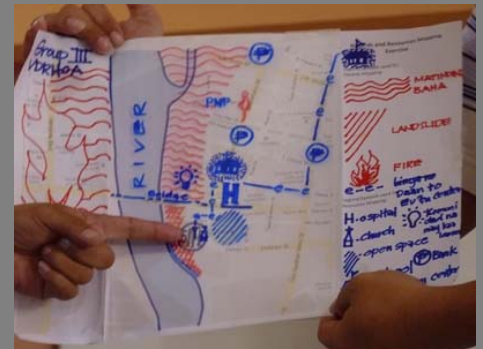
Augustine Metropolitan Cathedral in Cagayan De Oro City. The workshop also aimed to directly involve the affected families in the proposed in-city relocation projects through participatory community planning and design. Thus, TAO-Pilipinas facilitated participatory design activities to draw out ideas and community preferences for their site plans and house designs. TAO likewise oriented the participants on hazards and resources mapping as a planning tool for disaster risk reduction.

The CMP Workshop participants represented communities that are to be resettled in three sites in Cagayan De Oro City (Gusa, Camaman-an, and Indahag). For the participatory design activities, the participants were divided into six groups (two groups for each site) and were given planning tool kits to come up with schematic site plans as well as schemes for a model house design. Prior to outlining their design schemes, minimum design standards according to Batas Pambansa 220 were presented and each group discussed their collective answers to a set of guide questions for planning. TAO-Pilipinas provided the scaled lot plans of the sites and the planning kits composed of scaled cut-out pieces for the groups to lay out a schematic site plan. After the first day of the workshop, six schematic site plans were completed and presented.

On the second day of the workshop, SHFC discussed the details of the CMP loan amount entitled to each family-beneficiary. Afterwards, the groups were given another set of planning kits made up of three-dimensional scaled model pieces and were asked to discuss and decide on a preferred house design. They used the movable pieces of the kits to complete a scaled model of their house design with interior layout. The participants presented six different designs with a common preference for a single-detached house on a 100 square meter lot.

The results of the design workshops will be consolidated by the groups' local community mobilizers to be used as inputs to site development planning and housing design. The proposed schemes will also be presented to the rest of the community members for discussion and consideration. (*Ge Matabang*)

Highlights of the CDO planning workshops



Hazards and resources mapping



Orientation on minimum standards (BP 220)



Site planning workshop



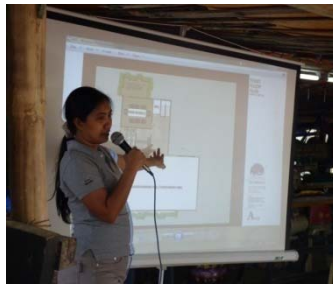
House design workshop



Presentation of community-proposed designs

UP-TFA submits plans for SAPSPA Pabahay Batch 14 houses

UP-based student organization Task Force Arki (UP-TFA) completed the construction drawings of five houses for the Pabahay (Housing) program of SAPSPA (Samahan para sa Angkop na Pabahay ng San Pablo Apostol) in Tondo, Manila. Prior to completing the drawings, the volunteer teams of architecture students presented their design proposals to the five beneficiaries of the housing loan on February 6, 2012. Architect Arlene Lusterio of TAO-Pilipinas supervised the students' design and drafting of the plans. The architectural and engineering plans have been submitted by SAPSPA for building permits and construction is scheduled to start by May. (*Ge Matabang*)



Design consultation and validation workshops for Christian Aid-funded projects

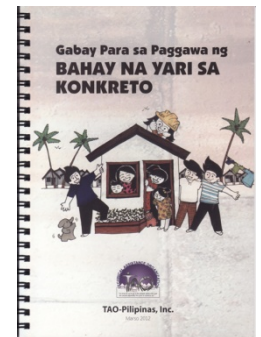
March and April were filled with a flurry of activities for TAO-Pilipinas due to the continuing progress of community projects under the Post-Ketsana Rehabilitation Program of Christian Aid. TAO is providing technical assistance to three communities in the province of Rizal --- Rodriguez, San Mateo, and Taytay. A series of design consultation and validation workshops have been conducted by TAO in the past two months.

On March 27, the revised design for a livelihood-evacuation center was presented to Buklod Tao, a community located at Brgy. Banaba, San Mateo, Rizal. Architect Arlene Lusterio and Verna Sarraga presented the design with revisions based on community consultations last February. On April 14, it was the turn of the community of Suburban Phase 1B in Rodriguez, Rizal to hold a design consultation and validation workshop. A change in the location of the temporary evacuation center was made and the community basketball court was selected as the new site. Improvements will be made to the community basketball court including a rolled-up wall cover for added rainwater protection. A multi-purpose building will also be built within the premises of the basketball court. Updates and engineering details regarding the pedestrian bridge design was also shown to the community leaders. (*Angel Sales*)

New Publication from TAO

Gabay Para sa Paggawa ng Bahay na Yari sa Konkreto (Guide to Building a House Made of Concrete)

TAO-Pilipinas has released a simplified guide book (52 pages) to building a concrete house. Authored by Architect Angelus Sales of TAO's Research and Publications Program, the book is written in Filipino and targets urban poor communities undertaking self-help construction of their houses. It introduces communities to acceptable construction standards and practice and is provided as an initial technical support for community initiatives to build safe and durable houses. For better comprehension, technical construction terms were translated to layman's language and supported by graphics/illustrations done by Verna Lucia Sarraga. The book is available for sale at PhP150.00 per copy.



PHILSSA...

(From page 2)

The conference was divided into three main parts. First, Opportunities for Strengthening Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships for Housing Informal Settlers featured an update by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) of the PhP10Billion Fund for In-City Housing Projects for Informal Settler Families in Danger Areas, a presentation by UP-ALL of the Covenant with the Urban Poor and the Budget Partnership Agreement with the NHA by the PHILSSA National Coordinator. Second, under City Partnerships in Action, QC-UP ALL presented Building Alliances at the Barangay Level—Quezon City followed by Alyansa ng mga Mamamayan ng Montalban's (ALMAMO) Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction in Local Housing Agenda—Montalban, Poverty Mapping as a Tool for Advocacy—Malabon City by Alyansa ng mga Mamamayang may Integredad sa Malabon (AIMM), and the Community-Managed Water Service Delivery—Manila by KOSMA.

Finally, the third part Social Research Hour: New Perspectives, New Possibilities produced results from four studies: MRH for Informal Settlers: Implications on Cost, Tenure and Financing Arrangements by JCIICSI, Examining Affordable Housing as a Social Enterprise for CSOs using Value Chain Analysis Methods by ALTERPLAN, The Face of Urbanization in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) by Pilipina Legal Resources Center (PLRC), and TAO-Pilipinas as a recipient of one of the social research funds presented the result of its study on the Development of a Participatory People's Community Planning Development Tool for Effec-

tive On-Site Upgrading of Urban Poor Communities in Metro Manila. In each part the plenary generated a lot of lively discussion between people's organizations and NGOs and the national government agency, especially the National Housing Authority. Overall, the event succeeded in making the different stakeholders sit and listen to each other. Some issues were clarified, new ideas were generated, and alliances strengthened with the mutual understanding that addressing the issues in poverty and housing need the support of all stakeholders. (*Faith Varona*)

ADB-PRRC Forum on Pasig River

THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB) AND PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION (PRRC) organized a Pasig River Forum on April 24, 2012 at the ADB Headquarters in Mandaluyong City. The whole day program intended to inform participants of PRRC's current projects and plans until 2016 and to share experiences from other countries with similar projects. It also served as a public platform for stakeholders to confirm their commitment to Pasig River plans, targets, and vision. The forum was attended by a good mix of civil society organizations, representatives from national government and law-enforcing agencies, and local government units.

PRRC chairperson Gina Lopez opened the forum with an invocation and this was followed by a dance presentation from the youth of Estero de Paco. ADB Director General for the Southeast Asia Department Kunio Senga delivered the welcome remarks. Progress reports and updates on the rehabilitation of Estero de Paco were presented. Ms. Lopez showed photos of the progress made in the span of 15 months and reported that the affected informal settler families have been relocated to Calauan, Laguna. She also discussed working with local governments in cleaning up Pasig River and its tributaries.

Following Ms. Lopez' presentation, resource persons from Thailand, Indonesia, Germany, China, and South Korea shared the results of their own river clean-up projects. Ditmar Gorges from Germany talked about technologies for wastewater treatment while Thipparat Noppaladaram of Thailand discussed the housing program for the informal settler families located by the riverside. Wilfried Purba from the Ministry of Health in Indonesia discussed the sanitation aspect of cleaning up Citarum River in West Java.

Breakup sessions were conducted in the afternoon which divided the participants into four groups to simultaneously tackle the following topics: Aligning Urban and Renewal Settlers; Reducing Pollution and Waste; Zoning in on Riverbank Development; and Engaging Stakeholders and Partners. Afterwards, a Mayor's Panel led by Mayor Benjamin Abalos, Jr. of Mandaluyong City was facilitated. The highlight of the afternoon session was the signing of the Pasig River Declaration 2012 by the various mayors, cabinet secretaries, heads of national government agencies, and civil society organization led by Kapit-Bisig. The Pasig River Declaration 2012 is a commitment statement that promises to restore the Pasig River to its pristine condition. The program ended with a speech coming from President Noynoy Aquino which was read by Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Ramon Paje. *(Angel Sales)*

Christian Aid Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) Consultation Workshop and Partner's Meeting

IN 2006, CHRISTIAN AID (CA) SIGNED UP AS A member of the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) International, a global organization that promotes accountability to people affected by humanitarian crises and acknowledges organizations that meet the HAP Principles of Accountability developed to make member-organizations accountable for the quality of its work to people it aims to assist.



A consultation workshop cum partner's meeting was held on April 18-21, 2012 at Grande Island Resort, Subic Bay as a follow-up activity to finalize the humanitarian accountability roll-out process within the CA country programme that started in 2008. The workshop aimed to present to all country partners of CA Philippines the Accountability Framework and draft downward policy documents on Open Information Policy and Complaints and Response Policy Mechanism, to seek the partners' comments and inputs for integration in the final policy document, and identify strategies for taking the HAP roll-out Plan forward at the country level. TAO-Pilipinas participated in the workshop along with other CA partners from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. *(Faith Varona)*



Mharren C. Castro, 20, is an incoming senior student of BS Architecture at the University of the Philippines – Diliman. As chairperson of the student organization UP Task Force Arki (TFA), he led the team of architecture students who volunteered to complete the drafting and design of 5 low-cost houses under the Pabahay program of SAPSPA in Tondo.

Without a doubt, experience is still the best teacher when it boils down to the most important lessons in life. And like any other educational companion, it can only be deemed effective by how the students would eventually respond to the learning process. Reception is everything, and at times, even relatively exclusive making this a critical defining point by which I, as well, have constantly been trying to frame all the interesting events of my young life into.

Being in and spearheading a service-oriented student organization is one of these moments of interest in my college life. We have been exposed to inspiring opportunities in architectural service as we learn in a holistic process – encompassing physical, social, cultural, and many other aspects – while interacting with people from almost all walks of life. Living (or almost-dying) as architecture students while dealing with extra-curricular responsibilities at the same time has been our chosen adventure; and for me, this setting is also that rewarding footpath towards a more purposeful and sensible education I had been hoping for.

Working for the Design and Drafting for SAPSPA Houses, in particular, seem like a roller coaster ride. Managing not only your own but also all the other teams' workflow, meeting the deadlines that define your capacity and not the other way around, and making sure all the forces in the project harmonize – while other pressures rise from academic obligations – can pretty much summarize the spirit of challenge in this project... a challenge that I admit we have not fulfilled excellently. I have found so much room for improvement in all our ways and these are the points by which I determined how to grow on learning from our mistakes and shortcomings. I lacked the agency for time management, and anticipation of the weight of duties, and consequently got lost in a time loop of confusions, miscommunications, and revisions here and there.

But on one hand, being able to apply our acquired academic faculties to this project makes me appreciate the difficult times. Even more so, the interaction with the community alone is a directional network of experience for me, the impacts of which I always try to share with and impart to our organization. Most especially, what pushed me to get back on track when facing the difficult phase of this project was the hope and trust from the community we needed to help in the first place. As cheesy as that may sound, when you realize that your actions are affecting people's lives, you have got to do the best of what you can. And that is precisely what I believe we've tried to do.

SAPSPA project has provided me a concrete venue for learning a deeper understanding of architecture, growing as a leader, and above all, reflecting on the sense of my life ultimately – in a nerve-wrecking, but fun ride that I truly never regret. Most importantly, I take privilege in working with and learning from TAO-Pilipinas, not only because they guided us all the way but moreover, they showed me the value of understanding, patience, and resilience during the stressful turns of this shuttle.

As I have known, nothing is perfect and keeping up with the pressure is the very least one can do in this world of imperfection. And that, I think, we did in the best way we could muster. After all, pressure makes diamonds. And for what it's worth, learning through a memorable ride of experience such as SAPSPA is indeed more than the diamond that I have started shaping myself into.



Leading the team of volunteer architecture students in their field visits to Magsaysay Village in Tondo



Explaining the minimum design standards for low-cost housing projects



Consulting the housing loan program beneficiary and discussing the schematic design proposal for their house.

YP Reading List

Books and other materials featured in this section are available at the TAO Resource Center & Library. Library use is by appointment and guidelines may be viewed at <http://www.tao-pilipinas.org/resources/library>. You may call Angel Sales at 441-0998 / 436-7301 or email lib@tao-pilipinas.org to schedule your visit.



Title: **Comprehensive Site Planning**: Transform community to better living place for all (ACHR Handbook Series II)

Author: **Community Architect Network**

Publisher: **Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (2012)**

Comprehensive Site Planning is a book that highlights the importance of a participatory approach to community planning, especially in slum upgrading projects. It summarizes programs and activities taken up by non-government organizations to facilitate community site development that involves the participation of members of the community in the planning process. It espouses the creation of better living spaces for poor communities and housing programs that take into consideration socio-cultural factors and the environment.

The book can be appreciated for clearly and creatively presenting the idea of participatory design. It is filled with visual presentation and useful tips for young architects and technical professionals who may want to apply this approach to community design. The case studies included show actual applications of participatory housing design processes in different communities in Asia. This enables the reader to learn from positive outcomes and various ways of involving the people themselves in creating effective solutions to improve their communities.

As a young design student myself, this book reinforces my desire to pursue a career as a public architect and increases my knowledge about providing technical service for poor communities. I recommend this book to fellow architecture students and even to local housing authorities because it introduces participatory design as an effective approach to housing programs for the poor. (Glenn Matre)

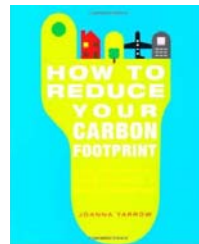
Title: **Thinking Architecture**

Author: **Peter Zumthor**

Publisher: **Birkhauser (2006)**

Thinking Architecture is a compilation of a series of lectures by author Peter Zumthor, a trained cabinetmaker, designer and architect. In this book, he explains architecture theories and principles through the narration of his personal experiences and observations as an architect and designer. Zumthor uses metaphor in his explanations and relates architecture to other fields like music. Many of his observations reveal notions about aesthetics (beauty), architectural space and form that are taken for granted in the practice.

The book is written in a descriptive and narrative form and can be fully appreciated by readers who practice architecture (students and professionals). As an architecture student, reading this book opens my mind to new ideas and leads me to other realizations and to have a deeper understanding of architectural concepts and theories. (Cristina Belen)



Title: **How to Reduce Your Carbon**

Footprint: 365 Practical Ways to Make a Real Difference

Author: **Joanna Yarrow**

Publisher: **Duncan Baird Publishers (2008)**

This book was written by a British author and Beyond Green co-founder and talks about different tips and ideas on how to reduce your "carbon footprint". Backed-up by facts and statistics from around the world, it is a good guide to decreasing our carbon emissions. With today's population increasingly concerned about having a greener and more sustainable lifestyle, this book is helpful if you do not know where to start in participating in this worldwide trend.

The book explains how we contribute to carbon emissions in our environment and gives advice on how we can go about our daily activities so that carbon emission is lessened. Although some of the contents are generally known already, there are still some particular details that will tickle your mind in the course of reading. Some of the tips are mostly applicable in the United States and in Europe only, because of the author's geographic origin but there are still several ideas that are applicable in our country. (Russell Amada)



Title: **Living Architecture**: How Synthetic Biology Can Remake Our Cities and Reshape Our Lives

Author: **Rachel Armstrong**

Publisher: **TED (2012) Kindle Edition**

An architecture that can actually "heal a stressed environment" --- this is how author Rachel Armstrong envisions the built environment of the near future in her book *Living Architecture*. With the tragedy of the 2011 Japan tsunami strongly in mind, Armstrong underscores the need for a radical new approach to architecture where synthetic biology becomes the platform to create buildings that can have remedial functions. Going further than biomimicry (designs that take inspiration from nature) and the current research and development on zero-carbon buildings, Armstrong advocates the application of protocell technologies (artificially customized manufactured living cells) in an architectural setting. For example, she rethinks how building facades are designed and imagines "living claddings" where facades make useful substances to clean the air, modulate sunlight, recycle waste and purify water.

What is espoused in this short book is indeed radical and innovative. With the present growth of megacities and increasingly hostile effects of climate change, *Living Architecture* is an inspiring treatise on how a "chemical architecture" can effectively respond to these environmental challenges. Armstrong explains the shortfalls of existing systems (particularly building construction as a lifeless, machine-manufactured process) and logically establishes the case for structures as living objects with physical flexibility to respond to environmental change. I highly recommend this exciting book especially for those who are keen on what lies ahead for architectural theory and practice. (Ge Matabang)